

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBAN 00191 221553Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /050 W
-----085214 221600Z /53

P 221200Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL DUBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2872
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, SOPH, SF
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST CONCERNING EUGENE HUGO

REF: A. STATE 069484 B. JOHANNESBURG 668 C. CAPE TOWN
562 (NOTAL)

1. EUGENE HUGO, FORMER WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR ARGUS NEWSPAPERS, CALLED ON CONGEN OFFICER SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN TO DUBAN TO RENEW A CONTACT BEGUN IN WASHINGTON IN 1975. HUGO WAS DISPIRITED ABOUT HIS SUDDEN TRANSFER BUT DETERMINED TO CONTINUE IN ARGUS GROUP. HE WAS AN EDITOR OF DUBAN-BASED SUNDAY TRIBUNE BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO WASHINGTON IN 1975 BUT UNCERTAIN WHAT POSITION HE WOULD HOLD NOW. FOR THE TIME BEING HE HAS NO SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT AND REPORTS ON AD-HOC BASIS ON GENERAL POLITICAL MATTERS. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE GIVEN HIS OWN COLUMN TO WRITE EACH WEEK NOR DID HE INDICATE HE WOULD BE MADE AN EDITOR.

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2. REF B PROVIDED DEPT/USIA WITH AN ARGUS VIEW OF HUGO'S SITUATION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY DUBAN SUNDAY TRIBUNE EDITOR WHO CITED ALSO EMBARRASSMENT TO ARGUS OF HUGO'S U.S. REPORTING AND FAUX PAS IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TAPED BY S.A. INFORMATION MINISTRY.

3. FOR THE RECORD, THE AMBASSADOR DID RECEIVE A LETTER FROM

C.L.C. HEWITT, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ARGUS CO., EXPRESSING HIS EMBARRASSMENT AND CONCERN OVER WASHINGTON VIEWS OF HUGO'S REASSIGNMENT. HEWITT'S LETTER STATED THAT THE DECISION TO REASSIGN HUGO TO THE TRIBUNE WAS MADE PRIOR TO PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT HE HAD BECOME POLITICALLY INVOLVED IN WASHINGTON CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA. HEWITT SPECIFICALLY REFUTED A CLAIM BY JANCK ANDERSON THAT HUGO WAS WITHDRAWN UNDER SAG PRESSURE, AND EXPRESSED EMBARRASSMENT THAT THE USG SEEMED TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THIS VIEW. HEWITT'S LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO DON PETTERSON IN AF/S ON MARCH 14.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MONITORING, HUMAN RIGHTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0541
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780339/aaaabglz.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 436cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 69484
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3243147
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST CONCERNING EUGENE HUGO
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, SF, (HUGO, EUGENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/436cc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014